
Adult Environmental Emergencies:

Hypothermia

I. All Provider Levels



Note Well: *Handle all hypothermic patients carefully not to precipitate cardiac arrest. All patients in cardiac arrest without injuries incompatible with life in the presence of hypothermia must be resuscitated (refer to the PDOA Protocol, H3).*

1. Refer to the Patient Care Protocol.
2. Move patient to a warm environment.
 - A. Obtain patient temperature
3. Avoid further heat loss by removing wet clothing and re-warm patient using blankets and insulating/heating equipment.
4. If respiratory effort is inadequate assist ventilations utilizing BVM with 100% oxygen.
5. Place the patient in a horizontal position.
6. If the patient is in cardiac arrest:
 - A. Initiate CPR with BVM and 100% oxygen.
 - B. Attach AED and analyze rhythm.



Note Well: *EMT-I and EMT-P should use monitor-defibrillator and refer to appropriate cardiac arrest protocol.*

- C. If in a shockable rhythm defibrillate patient with AED.



Note Well: *EMT-I and EMT-P should use manual defibrillator.*

Adult Environmental Emergencies: Hypothermia

I. All Provider Levels (continued)

7. Initiate advanced airway management with Combi-tube if respiratory effort is inadequate.



Note Well: EMT-I and EMT-P should use ET intubation.

8. Establish an IV of Normal Saline KVO and infuse warm fluids if possible.



Note Well: An ALS Unit must be en route or on scene.



II. Advanced Life Support Providers

1. Attach EKG and interpret rhythm.



III. Transport Decision

1. Transport immediately to the closest appropriate facility.